(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the States where Zoos have been closed;

(d) whether Government have received requests from the States for financial assistance and allocation of alternative sites for resettlement of Zoos; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enable the animals to complete their normal life span, where the Zoos have been closed down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Zoos are required to conform to standards and norms prescribed under 'Recognition of Zoo Rules' for proper upkeep and health care of animals. Only such zoos have been asked to close down, which failed to provide quality life and health care to the animals, within the time frame prescribed by the Central Zoo Authority.

(c) Zoos have been closed down in the following states/UTs:

Andhra Prade*esh, Assa*m, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal.

(b) Yes, Sir. Central Zoo Authority is already providing financial assistance for shifting of the zoos to alternate sites wherever these requests are received from the state governments.

(e) The operation of a zoo is closed only after the animals are properly relocated by the concerned Forest Department of the state in other zoos or appropriate forest area, to enable the animals to complete their normal life span.

Action taken by CPCB against defaulting hospitals

1752. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has recently issued show cause notices to five hospitals of Delhi for violating rules regarding bio-medical wastes disposal;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) action proposed to be taken by Government against the defaulting hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued show cause notices to the following hospitals in Delhi:

(i) Army Research and Referral Hospital, Subrato Park, Delhi

(ii) Hindu Rao Hospital, Delhi.

(iii) Tirathram Shah Hospital, Battery Lane, Delhi.

(iv) Lady Harding Medical College and Associated Hospitals, Panchkuian Road, New Delhi.

(v) Batra Hospital and Medical Research Centre, 1, Tughalakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi.

(c) After examining the responses received from these hospitals, CPCB has carried out inspections to check the measures taken and directed them to take necessary action for further improvements wherever needed.

Cache of skins of wild animals

†1753. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cache of skins of tigers, cheetahs and other wild animals killed in Ranthambore Tiger Project in Rajasthan has been caught anywhere in the country during the last five years; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to stop smuggling of skins and other items of animals killed in sanctuaries and tiger projects in the country; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.